



To: Emergency Managers
From: Martha Braddock
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International Association of Emergency Managers
Subject: Contact Your Members of Congress on EMPG Funding
Date: March 4, 2006

Contact Your Members of Congress to Request an Increase in EMPG

Many of you have read page six of the March IAEM Bulletin urging you to contact your Members of Congress stressing the importance of Emergency Management Performance Grants and urging an increase in the FY 07 Appropriations for this vital program.

If you have not yet made those contacts, please do so as soon as possible.

Last year many of you contacted your Members of Congress and we were successful in getting EMPG increased from \$170 million to \$185 million and retained in a separate account. The amount was later lowered by an across the board reduction to \$183.1. However, even after Katrina, the President's budget request for FY 07 cut EMPG to \$170 million. Once again this will be a difficult budget year and your contacts are important.

Urgency

Member's Request letter—very important to our effort

Each Member of Congress will soon be sending a "Member Request letter" to the House or Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security listing the priorities to be included in the FY 07 appropriations bill for the Department.

Be sure to ask that an increase in EMPG be included in the Member's priorities in their request letter. (This is not an earmark but a priority)

House Members must submit their letters by March 16 and Senators must submit by April 3 so it is important that you act very soon.

International Association of Emergency Managers, 201 Park Washington Court, Falls Church, VA 22046, 703-538-1795.

Substance of faxes, phone calls, e-mails.

- You are writing/ calling to urge their support for increasing funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grants in the FY 2007 Appropriation for the Preparedness Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security.
- You are requesting that they include increasing the funding for this important program in their priority letter to the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security.
- The appropriated amount in FY 06 was \$183.1 million and the FY 07 request was reduced to \$170, a reduction of \$13.1.
- Explain briefly what EMPG is and why it is important to you county or city. Tell what EMPG is used for and why we need to be increasing capacity at the state and local level, not reducing it. (Some do not understand the importance of EMPG to building the “emergency management system”—you need to make it clear what it means on the state and local level. Many Members of Congress and their staff do not understand what emergency managers do and why the role is so vital.)
- A study by the National Emergency Management Association 2 years ago indicated there is a \$260 million shortfall. We are seeking an increase to begin addressing this shortfall. The position of the International Association of Emergency Managers is that we should be addressing this shortfall over a three year period; therefore we are seeking an \$86 million increase in FY 07 which would bring the total to \$256million.
- Be certain to give contact information so that you can be reached if additional information is needed.
- Some items that you may want to include in your email/fax:
 - It is clear from the reports following Katrina that we must strengthen the emergency management system—that means strengthening the Federal, state and local capabilities. All disasters are local and we must build a stronger foundation at the state and local levels.
 - EMPG is an investment; it is vital for strengthening the state and local capability. It is the only source of direct Federal assistance to state and local governments for emergency management capacity building. EMPG is to support emergency management personnel, all-hazard disaster planning, training & drills, planning for and implementing mass evacuations and sheltering, public information and disaster education, warning systems, and emergency operations centers that provide critical communication and coordination among all response agencies during disaster response.
 - EMPG is a matching grant intended to be 50% federal and 50% state and local. It has never been funded at a level which even approaches this

- objective (here you might want to comment on what portion of your budget EMPG actually represents.) In a time when all of us are very concerned about accountability in the use of Federal funds, it's important to note that EMPG is a performance grant requiring deliverables and performance reviews which must be met if the funding is to be continued.
- Your responsibilities have increased with efforts to comply with HSPD 8 on National Preparedness and to implement the National Incident Management System and the National Response Plan.
- The catastrophic events in the Gulf Coast have resulted in additional requirements for plans reviews and revisions addressing mass evacuation and sheltering without additional funding.
- This is a grant which has been in existence since the 1950's because it was recognized that there is a Federal interest in having strong emergency management system extending to the state and local level. Recent events have, once again, clearly demonstrated the criticality of this concept.
- EMPG has been called the "backbone of the emergency management system" by Congress.
- EMPG helps in providing assistance to other communities and states under mutual aid. The hundreds of missions accomplished under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact during the 2006 hurricane system, illustrated the need for having strong emergency management programs which can provide surge capacity to help other states and communities.

How to make contact

IMPORTANT: Given the concerns regarding safety of mail, many Members of Congress and their staff now prefer faxes or e-mail.

For established contacts:

- If you already have established a contact in Members' Washington offices, call them, send an e-mail and follow up with a faxed letter to the Member of Congress, marked to the correct staff person's attention.
- Be certain this issue is still one of that staff person's responsibilities. Staff change and responsibilities shift.
- Even though you provide the information orally, it is helpful for the staff member to have the information in writing. The letters will go into the review folder when Members and staff are making decisions on what to include in their priorities.
- If you fax your letter, be sure to follow up with a phone call. Some offices get so many faxes that it takes several days for a fax to get to the correct person.
- Be sure to keep your state or district Members' office in the loop.

For new contacts:

- Call the Washington Office (phone numbers available from <http://www.house.gov> or <http://www.senate.gov>) or you can call the Capitol Operator at 202-225-3121 and ask for the specific Member's office.
- Identify yourself as the emergency manager from (name of county or city) so they will know you are a constituent.
- Get the name of the correct Staff Member: do not just leave a message for the Member of Congress.
- Ask who in the office is handling issues relating to emergency management and appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security. (Frequently a different person will be handling DHS issues such as customs or immigration).
- Be clear you are calling regarding an FY 07 Appropriations issue pending before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security.
- Be certain you get the name of the person you talk with.
- Ask for e-mail and fax number so that you can follow up in writing.
- Contact the Member's local office to keep them in the loop.

Who to Contact:

All Members of Congress are important in this effort and should be contacted; however, the following members of the respective appropriations committees are especially key and I would particularly urge that contacts be made to the Members of the House and Senate Subcommittees on Homeland Security and the other members of the Full Appropriations Committees.

SENATE

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Chairman Judd Gregg (NH)

Ranking Member Robert C. Byrd (WV)

Thad Cochran (MS)

Daniel Inouye (HI)

Ted Stevens (AK)

Patrick Leahy (VT)

Arlen Specter (PA)

Barbara Mikulski (MD)

Pete Domenici (NM)

Herb Kohl (WI)

Richard Shelby (AL)

Patty Murray (WA)

Larry Craig (ID)

Harry Reid (NV)

Robert Bennett (UT)

Dianne Feinstein (CA)

Wayne Allard (CO)

Senate Full Committee on Appropriations

Chairman Thad Cochran (MS)

Ranking Member Robert Byrd (WV)

Ted Stevens (AK)

Daniel Inouye (HI)

Arlen Specter (PA)

Patrick Leahy (VT)

Pete Domenici (NM)
Christopher Bond (MO)

Tom Harkin (IA)
Barbara Mikulski (MD)

Mitch McConnell (KY)
Conrad Burns (MT)
Richard Shelby (AL)
Judd Gregg (NH)
Robert Bennett (UT)
Larry Craig (ID)
Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX)
Mike DeWine (OH)
Sam Brownback (KS)
Wayne Allard (CO)

Harry Reid (NV)
Herb Kohl (WI)
Patty Murray (WA)
Byron Dorgan (ND)
Dianne Feinstein (CA)
Richard Durbin (IL)
Tim Johnson (SD)
Mary Landrieu (LA)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Chair Harold Rogers (KY)
Zach Wamp (TN)
Tom Latham (IA)
Jo Ann Emerson (MO)
John E. Sweeney (NY)
Jim Kolbe, (AZ)
Ernest J. Istook, Jr. (OK-Vice Chair)
Ray LaHood (IL)
Ander Crenshaw (FL)
John Carter (TX)

Ranking Member Martin Olav Sabo (MN)
David E. Price (NC)
Jose E. Serrano (NY)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA)
Marion Berry (AR)
Chet Edwards (TX)

House Full Committee on Appropriations

Chairman Jerry Lewis (CA)
Bill Young (FL)
Ralph Regula (OH)
Harold Rogers (KY)
Frank Wolf (VA)
Jim Kolbe (AZ)
Jim Walsh (NY)
Charles Taylor (NC)
David Hobson (OH)
Ernest Istook, Jr. (OK)
Henry Bonilla (TX)
Joe Knollenberg (MI)

Ranking Member David Obey (WI)
John Murtha (PA)
Norman Dicks (WA)
Martin Olav Sabo (MN)
Steny Hoyer (MD)
Alan Mollohan (WV)
Marcy Kaptur (OH)
Peter Visclosky (IN)
Nita Lowey (NY)
Jose Serrano (NY)
Rosa DeLauro (CT)
James Moran (VA)

Jack Kingston (GA)
Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ)
Roger Wicker (MS)

Todd Tiahrt (KS)
Zach Wamp (TN)
Tom Latham (IO)
Anne Northup (KY)
Robert Aderholt (AL)
Jo Ann Emerson (MO)
Kay Granger (TX)
John Peterson (PA)
Virgil Goode (VA)
John Doolittle (CA)
Ray LaHood (IL)
John Sweeney (NY)
Don Sherwood (PA)
Dave Weldon (FL)
Michael K. Simpson (ID)
John Culberson (TX)
Mark Steven Kirk (IL)
Ander Crenshaw (FL)
Dennis Rehberg (MT)
John Carter (TX)
Rodney Alexander (LA)

John Olver (MA)
Ed Pastor (AZ)
David Price (NC)
Chet Edwards (TX)
Robert “Bud” Cramer (AL)
Patrick Kennedy (RI)
James Clyburn (SC)
Maurice Hinchey (NY)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)
Sam Farr (CA)
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (IL)
Carolyn Kilpatrick (MI)
Allen Boyd (FL)
Chaka Fattah (PA)
Steven Rothman (NJ)
Sanford Bishop, Jr. (GA)
Marion Berry (AR)